**Post:**

"**Drowning in data.** On the other hand, sometimes it feels like we are drowning in data because we cannot pay attention to all of the data available to us." (Golden, 2005) We are a data driven society, and education is definitely no exception. Because we are inundated with huge amounts of data, a very good data base and data mining software is an absolute must. My district uses Skyward. The student database alone is over 80gb of data , and we are a small school. There is absolutely no way to manage this data without good data mining software. Mining data using Skyward is very efficient, but learning how to mine the data you desire is a challenge. If you know how to write the query, the desired data is available in a couple of seconds. I can only imagine how this data was mined without computers and data mining software. What takes seconds today would have taken days. Because of technology we are able to utilize data in a way that our predecessors could not have imagined.

Golden, M. (2005, July 1). Making strides with educational data. *THE Journal*. Retrieved on April 21, 2011, from http://thejournal.com/Articles/2005/07/01/Making-Strides-with-Educational-Data.aspx?Page=1.

**Responses:**

Jack, I agree that we collect too much data in our schools. Data is easy to collect a the beginning stages. However, how we use this data is a major issue. Do you think it is possible to collect too much data?

I agree we too use Skyward and there is a wealth of information there, but if you don’t know how to get to it what is the point of having it. There are a few people that really know how to use it on our campus and others who half know how to use it and still others who have know clue. I fall in that part where I know enough to get what I need. Training is needed on this program badly in our district, so that we are using it effectively.

Jack, We also use Skyward in my school district and it takes an enourmous amount of training to use Skyward. I also worry that all the budget cuts that come of the productivity of the software will be lost. For the software to be productive there must be people who know how to use the software and how to create the necessary reports.